

Nothing But 'Net – Week #08 – 12/18/2023 – An Uneventful Non-Conference Game

The University of Michigan men's basketball team played one game this past week, and they won it. [On Saturday \(12/16/2023\), they beat Eastern Michigan 83-66](#) in Crisler Arena. The win raises Michigan's record to 6-5 (1-1 in Big Ten).

What Happened?

For the first time this season, Michigan played an uneventful game, and they won it. Part of what made it uneventful was that it was the first game this season with Juwan Howard as head coach, now that he is sufficiently recovered from his heart surgery. The other part of what made it uneventful was that Michigan played a "typical" game for them. Not a great game, not a bad game, a typical game. They were about 17 points better than EMU, and that's what the scoreboard said at the end.

It may have been an uneventful game, but it was hardly an uneventful week, with all kinds of rumors flying around about a verbal altercation involving Jace Howard, an unidentified student trainer, Jon Sanderson (the strength and conditioning coach), and Juwan Howard. It resulted in an HR complaint filed by Sanderson, and [no disciplinary actions taken by Warde Manuel](#), the Athletic Director. The team didn't appear at all affected by the outside distractions.

Game Flow

Michigan led for almost the entire game. EMU was up 4-2 early, but UM went up 5-4 at the 18:17 mark, and never trailed again. They pushed the lead up to 10 points (16-6) with 14:14 to go, and kept the lead in the 7-9 point range for the next 10 minutes. The lead was still 10 points (37-27) at the 3:46 mark, when Michigan went on a 12-5 run to end the half, up 49-32 at halftime. Michigan kept the lead in the 14-16 point range for most of the 2nd half, although EMU did creep closer every now and then. With 10:00 to go, the lead was down to 10 points (59-49), when a flurry of activity in just 22 seconds put the game back out of reach: EMU missed a 3-pointer (9:33 mark), UM made a 3-pointer (9:27), EMU missed a dunk (9:17), and UM tipped in an alley-oop pass (9:11) to push the lead back up to 15 points. EMU never got closer than 12 points the rest of the way. It was a solid win against a feisty opponent.

Stats

[The game stats](#) were pretty good. Michigan shot well overall (31-for-57 = 54.4%), they shot 3-pointers very well (12-for-27 = 44.4%), and they shot free throws decently (9-for-15 = 60.0%). They won the rebounding battle (37-30), but lost the turnover battle (11-5). They won this game with good shooting and good 3-point defense: EMU shot 2-for-15 from deep, including 0-for-7 by their leading scorer.

Who Started?

The starters were [Nimari Burnett](#), [Dug McDaniel](#), [Olivier Nkamhoua](#), [Will Tschetter](#), and [Terrance Williams II](#).

Who Looked Good?

Nkamhoua was the leading scorer, with 17 points. He also had 9 rebounds, for an almost-double-double.

Burnett had a good game, with 14 points on 5-for-7 shooting (3-for-5 from deep).

Williams continued his recent improved play, with 13 points on decent shooting (4-for-10 overall, 3-for-7 from deep).

McDaniel was limited by foul trouble, but he still managed to score 11 points.

[Tarris Reed, Jr.](#) didn't start this game, for the first time this season. He played well off the bench, with 13 points, and he did start the 2nd half.

[Tray Jackson](#) played well off the bench, with 7 points.

Tschetter had a decent game, with 5 points and 6 rebounds.

[Jaelin Llewellyn](#) played for 15 minutes, and scored 3 points, going 1-for-2 from deep.

Who Looked Not-So-Good?

All the mainstream players looked good this week.

Who Else Played?

[Ian Burns](#) played, but didn't attempt a shot.

[Harrison Hochberg](#) played, but didn't attempt a shot.

[Youssef Khayat](#) missed his only shot attempt.

[Jackson Selvala](#) missed his only shot attempt.

[George Washington III](#) played, but didn't attempt a shot.

Who Didn't Play?

[Cooper Smith](#) didn't play.

[Jace Howard](#) is still recovering from an injury, and not playing yet. He's expected back "later in the season".

What Does It Mean?

This was a game that Michigan was expected to win, and they took care of business. If they can continue to play some solid, "typical" basketball, they might stand a shot at a better-than-0.500 record.

What's Next?

This week, Michigan only plays one game. On Tuesday (12/19/2023, 7:00 p.m., ESPN), they play Florida in Charlotte, NC, as part of the [Jumpman Invitational](#).

[Florida](#) is currently 7-3, with impressive wins over Florida State and Pittsburgh, and no embarrassing losses. They have one noteworthy player: Tyrese Samuel, a transfer from Seton Hall. They also have a lot of height: two 6'10" players, a 6'11" player, and a 7'1" player. This game will be a big challenge for Michigan, and they will have to play their best game so far this season to win it.

Check back next week to find out what happened and why.

Go Blue!